

Chet Dobis, a resident of Northwest Indiana, attended Merrillville High School and went on to further his education at Indiana University Northwest in Gary. He also studied at the University of Wisconsin, undertaking graduate coursework. In the years to follow, Chet, through hard work and acumen, would become a vice president at Bank One. He has also worked with the Indiana National Guard and the Gary Sportsmen Club. Representative Dobis was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1970 and has represented the people of Indiana House District 13 for the past forty-two years. Over the years, he has been a strong leader in the development of Northwest Indiana and has always been a true advocate for the citizens of his district. Among his major accomplishments, Chet was extremely helpful in the establishment of Merrillville, Indiana as a town. He also played a pivotal role in the creation of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA). This agency has been charged with implementing catalytic economic development projects throughout Lake and Porter counties. Representative Dobis's hard work has materialized as the RDA works with local communities to transform the south shore of Lake Michigan and to expand the Gary/Chicago International Airport. Throughout his career in the Indiana General Assembly, Chet has served as the House Assistant Minority Floor Leader and Speaker Pro Tempore. His current legislative committees include the Committee on Courts and Criminal Code and the Committee on Financial Institutions, and he serves as Chair of the Select Committee on Government Reduction. For his passionate commitment and continuous support to Northwest Indiana, Representative Dobis is to be highly commended.

In addition to his exemplary career, Chet is involved in numerous community and charitable organizations. He has served on the Executive Board of the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission and as a member of the Indiana University Northwest Advisory Board.

Representative Dobis's dedication to Northwest Indiana is noteworthy; however, it is his commitment to his family that is most impressive. Chet and his wonderful wife, Darlene, have two beloved children, Aaron and Ashley, and one adoring granddaughter, Teagan.

I am honored to call Chet Dobis a friend, and we should all be blessed with such wonderful friendships. More importantly, Chet has been a friend to all, a gentleman in the truest sense of that word, and the epitome of a public servant. His is a life we should all seek to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Indiana State Representative Chet Dobis for his outstanding devotion to Northwest Indiana and in wishing him well upon his retirement. Chet's unselfish, lifelong dedication and exceptional contributions to the community are worthy of the highest praise, and it has been a pleasure to work with him throughout his years in office.

IN MEMORY OF ALEXANDER
HILDEBRAND

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to honor the life of Alexander Hildebrand, who passed away at age 98 on January 23, 2012.

Alex was a father, farmer, engineer, and defender of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Alex graduated with honors from UC Berkeley with a degree in Physics and Chemistry in 1935. Alex went on to have a lengthy career with Standard Oil, working in refining and other areas. During World War II, Alex contributed to the war effort by serving in the Navy Reserves and then as chief engineer at an oil refinery in the Persian Gulf. He took an early retirement from Standard Oil and moved his family to a farm near Manteca in San Joaquin County, California in 1962. Alex loved the land and was working on his farm into his 90s.

Alex was a champion of Delta water and agriculture as the consulting engineer to the South Delta Water Agency. Additionally, he served on numerous boards and committees including the San Joaquin Farm Bureau board, the California Farm Bureau water committee, the Delta Water Users board, the Water Education Foundation advisory board, and the California Central Valley Flood Control Association board. He worked to create the San Joaquin River Flood Control Association and was appointed by Governor Wilson to the CalFed Bay Delta Oversight Committee and the CalFed Bay Delta Advisory Committee. Alex also served as president of the McMullin Reclamation District.

Alex was a valued and respected leader whose understanding of the Delta and California's water challenges was unsurpassed. Alex was always generous with his time and eager to teach new generations of leaders about the Delta and its precious waterways. Alex's work as an unwavering voice in defense of the Delta and its farmers leaves a legacy that will continue to benefit the people of San Joaquin County and the Delta. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Alexander Hildebrand and sending our thoughts and prayers to his beloved family and friends.

RECOGNIZING FIRST WESLEYAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct honor to recognize First Wesleyan Christian School in Gastonia, NC, which celebrates 40 years of service and education on April 21, 2012.

First Wesleyan Christian School first opened its doors in 1971 in Gastonia, North Carolina, bringing individualized, Christ-centered education to preschoolers and students of all denominations.

Since 1971, more than 2,000 children have attended First Wesleyan Preschool, and more than 1,800 students have attended First Wesleyan Christian School. Over 250 students have proudly graduated from First Wesleyan Middle School, ready to excel and lead academically and spiritually in high school, college and beyond. Thousands of Gaston-area residents have benefited, and continue to benefit, from the individual instruction, caring and leadership of hundreds of dedicated teachers, staff members, church members and community leaders over the past 40 years.

First Wesleyan students have gone on to serve as outstanding citizens, community partners, professionals, spiritual leaders, missionaries, teachers, parents and grandparents in our region, throughout North Carolina, across the United States and around the world.

I am proud to represent the faculty, student body and community of First Wesleyan Christian School, and congratulate them on their past, present and future success.

CELEBRATING STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAN STEVENSON'S RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous respect that I take this time to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, State Representative Dan Stevenson, and to thank him for his service as a member of the Indiana General Assembly. After eighteen years as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives, Dan has decided to retire from elective office. Known for being a great leader and a true public servant, Representative Stevenson's presence in Indianapolis will surely be missed by his colleagues and the people he has so loyally served.

A lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, Mr. Stevenson graduated from Highland High School in 1977 and later attended Calumet College of Saint Joseph. Later, Dan, like many hardworking people of Northwest Indiana, began working at Inland Steel Company, now ArcelorMittal. It is here where he witnessed the needs of the working class, for whom he tirelessly labored as a public servant. Even outside of his role in the General Assembly, Representative Stevenson has been a steadfast advocate for working men and women. As a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1010, Dan has served his co-workers as a grievance committee representative. Fully aware of the importance of keeping people informed, Dan has also served as the editor of the union newspaper. Dan Stevenson's dedication to those who toil for a living is to be commended.

First elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1994, Dan leaves a lasting impression. Described by his colleagues as a quiet, yet driven leader, it was apparent upon his arrival in Indianapolis that a true champion of working people had arrived. A truly well-rounded legislator, Representative Stevenson currently serves as the Ranking Minority Member on the Utilities and Energy Committee, as well as a member of the Environmental Affairs